

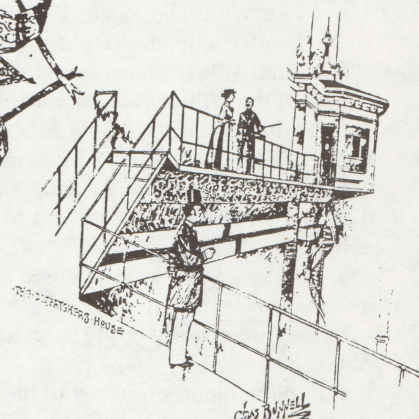
Depot Town Rag



August 1987
see calendar of meetings
on page four

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198



Jazz Competition

The 1987 WEMU/Depot Town Jazz Competition will again be an important part of the Ypsilanti Heritage. Admission is free and the competition will be broadcast live on WEMU.

The event is for semi-professional and student musicians living in Michigan who are looking for exposure, experience, a unique way to break into the jazz business and additional work and cash prizes.

Stop by the Jazz Competition tent near the Farmers/Market in Depot Town for 30 hours of exciting music during the weekend of August 21, 22, 23.

Will 'Colorization' Hurt Depot Town?

Historic preservationists agonize over new color choices as they update and retrofit the Italianate commercial buildings in Ypsilanti's railroad district. Even as they present photographs taken from the time of Noah up to the early 1950's, paint store minions are quick to point out which colors are "approved" because they were used at Colonial Williamsburg. Ted Turner's new Paint Company, WTPS (will Turner's paints sell?) are currently pushing earth tones, but careful observers will note that until 1958, everything was in black and white. They saw it on TV.

Page 1 DTA, August 1987

"Everybody's coming back,
Down between the River and the railroad track."

- "A Depot Town Rag," by Dodd and Pollack

Yesteryear/ Yes, M!ch!gan/ Yes, Ypsilanti!

Some of historic Depot Town's history is very recent, but vital to the understanding of the district's uniqueness. Most of this year's Festival-goers can remember the gas crisis of 1979. That's when Nat Edmunds, Rich Baird and Tom Dodd paused on the new sidewalks in front of the Eagles Club in Depot Town and started 'getting creative.' Rich ran the Visitors and Convention Bureau at the Chamber of Commerce office in an old gas station downtown. Nat was a 'westsider' who loved old buildings. Tom was a school teacher and painter who had recently moved into one of those old brick commercial blocks in the neighborhood.

Their creative product became the Ypsilanti Yesteryear Heritage Festival which was destined to draw folks from southeastern Michigan who couldn't afford that cross-country vacation in their motor homes.

The Fire Department set up their giant flood lights next to the boarded up Freight House the night before the first Festival and the boys from the Department of Public Works stayed up until dawn laying paving baricks in the new Market Plaza. The next day the DPW crew sat in the DTA beer garden in front of the filing station (Old Town Coin & Gold) and drank up all the profits.

Downtown's Pearl Street saw a set of carnival rides that so infuriated local business, that the 'junk show' was closed down before the Festival was half over -- and the quality has been steadily improving since then.

Chief of Police, Jimmy Moore, estimated the first years' crowd at fifty thousand, but City Manager, Steve Shutt said, "No, it was more like 55,000. That's a better number. If you say fifty, that's too simple. They'll think we made it up."

Since the desperate beginning, Ypsilanti's Heritage Festival has become one of the premiere community attractions in the state along with the Detroit/Windwor Freedom Festival, Holland's Tulip Festival, Frankenmuth's Barvarian Festival and Traverse City's Cherry Festival. Through the support of the Visitors and Convention Bureau and its \$70,000 operating budget this year, the Ypsilanti area's non-profit clubs and organizations plan to draw more than half a million people to Riverside Park, Frog Island and Depot Town. Welcome back. You're part of the history, too.

The Heritage Trivia Game

Ypsi kids can test their townie boosterism with these vital and poignant posers:

1. How many feet high is Ypsilanti's famous 1889 Water Works Stand Pipe (the water tower)??

a. 35, b. 147, c. 100, d. 555.

2. Demetrius Ypsilanti had a brother who was equally famous in the 1824 Greek war of independence from Turkey. What was his first name?

a. Aristotle, b. Alexander, c. Nicholas, d. Isocles

3. What was the last G-rated movie shown at the former Martha Theatre on Washington Street? (M-ART-HA: ha, ha!)

a. Gone With The Wind, b. Psycho, c. Uncle Tom's Cabin, d. Winged Victory

4. Which WWII plane was the primary output of the Willow Run bomber plant? a. B-17 Flying Fortress, b. B-24 Liberator, c. B-25 Billy Mitchell, d. B-26 Marauder

5. Many lot lines in Ypsilanti follow a diagonal pattern from northwest to southeast. This is because - - -

a. early surveyors were confused and had astigmatism

b. they were really trying to get to Ann Arbor

c. French trappers oriented to the Huron River

d. Magnetic north hadn't been installed yet

6. Which architectural style does not appear on North Huron Street? (Only one! That's pretty good.)

a. Greek Revival, b. Italianate, c. Italian, Villa, e. Victorian Romanesque, f. Gothic Revival, g. Neo Gothic, h. Second Empire, i. Queen Anne, j. Classical Revival, k. Georgian Revival, l. Tudor, m. Art Deco.

7. How old was Ypsilanti when the Michigan Territory ascended to statehood?

a. one year, b. five years, c. ten years, d. fifty years

8. Name the thoroughfares, north to south, which bridge the Huron River at Ypsilanti. (6)

9. Name the Michigan Central railroad stations from Chicago to Detroit as heard over the Union Station loudspeaker in the 1959 Alfred Hitchcock film, "North By Northwest," (9)

10. Pre-1850 east/west rivalry formented in Ypsilanti when the east side got the railroad station and the west side got - - -

a. the gas works, b. a theatre, c. the post office, d. Arborland.

(Twenty-four possible right answers. If you scored below twelve, you should be living in a condo in Livonia.

Answers: upsidedown in next column.

Artrain

Artrain's Fourth Visit to Ypsilanti

1971-1981-1986-1987. Why two years in a row? This year's rail-mounted art gallery features local Depot Towners, Carolyn McKeever and Rag editor, Tom Dodd, who were commissioned to design and paint the exterior of the Artrain with designs appropriate to the Michigan Sesquicentennial tour which features "The Cranbrook Vision" to more than two dozen Michigan cities this season.

Their first task was to paint out most of the New York subway-style graffiti from last year's Pop Art exhibition. They saved only Bill Blast's and Cranbrook painter, Susan Pitt's works on Car Number Two.

The Michigan "150" logo, waves and water, a quilt-farm-landscape and a Sesquicentennial stamp featuring the State's pine tree were among the images chosen to be painted on the nearly one thousand-foot-long blue Artrain. The stamp, particularly, will be a featured item at this August's stop in Ypsilanti, since Carolyn will be reunited with her former Wayne State University art teacher, Robert Wilbert who designed the original stamp for the United States Postal Service. Ypsilanti will contrast the actual painting to the printed U.S. twenty-two cent stamp and then to the ten-foot version on the Artrain.

The two Depot Town artists have chased the train around the lower peninsula of Michigan nearly every weekend since early March through such places as the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mt. Clemens, Romulus, Plymouth, Walled Lake, Jackson, Durand's Railroad Days Festival, Hemlock, Zeeland and Muskegon. When it parks on the tracks in Depot Town again, the enormous painting job will be finished -- for the two local artists to sit on their porches and admire along with the rest of the State.

This year's Artrain stop is being coordinated by the newly formed Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Eastern Michigan University, The City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township and Superior Township.

*Alon's
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The Grand Trunk, Ltd.

Cards & Gifts

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Fine Design in Hair Style

25 East Cross # 484-3045

City Body, Inc.

20 East Cross

Front Alignments

Special - \$24.95

1. b. 147
2. b. Alexander
3. c. Uncle Tom's Cabin, but not the one recently on Cable TV
4. b. B-24 Liberators were turned out at the rate of one every fifty minutes, twenty-four hours a day.
5. c. As in Detroit, the French Claims were drawn from the first developments along the river.
6. d. Gothic Revival is found in other blocks, but not this one.
7. b. An act of the Territorial legislature enabled this tiny settlement to become the village of Ypsilanti on September 3, 1832, five years before statehood.
8. Superior, LeForge, Forest, Cross, Michigan Avenue, Factory, 1-94
9. Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint fussed while the loudspeaker called out, "All aboard for Michigan City, Niles, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Jackson, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Dearborn, Detroit."
10. c. The Depot and the Post Office were large enough items of contention that the east side seceded for a year.

The Vitamin Shoppe
Vitamins, Herbs,
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9 East Cross • 485-2711

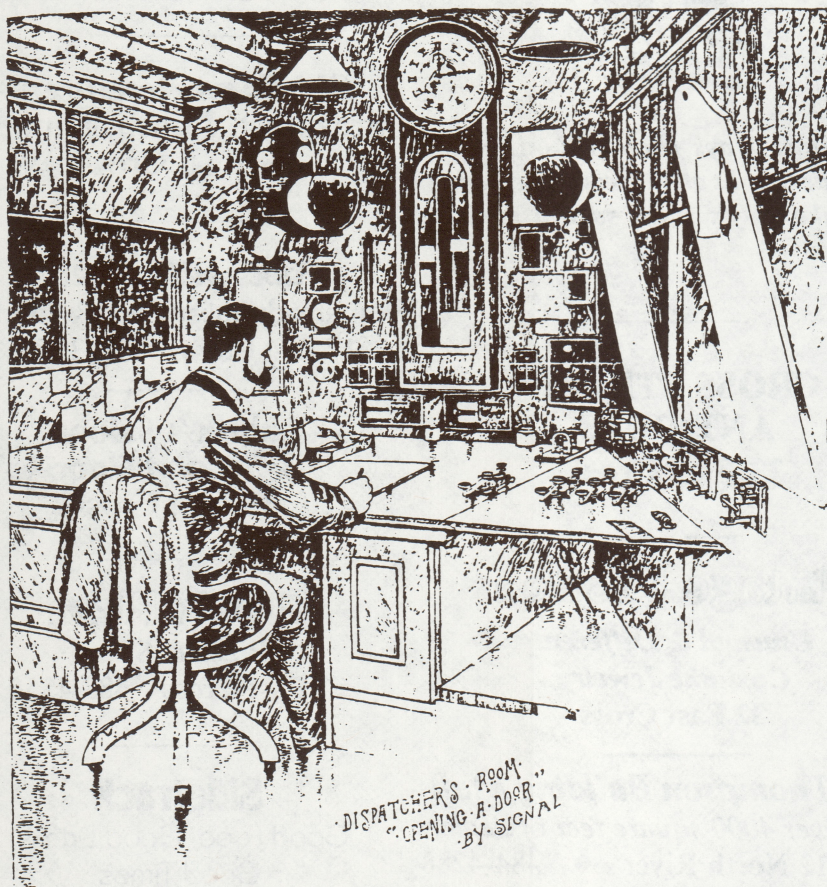
Our Little Secret
Resale Clothing & Other Niceties
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PEDDLER'S PATH
44 East Cross

Ypsilanti Recycling Project
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Hansen's
Standard Printing
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More Ypsi Trivia: How Street Smart Are You?

1. Which Ypsilanti streets are NOT named for U.S. presidents?
Washington, Adams, Hamilton, Franklin, Roosevelt, Grant, Lincoln.

2. Which were not generals? Sheridan, Woodward, Sherman

3-4. Betchya can't name two streets with Indian names.

5. Of all the 'Woodward' streets in town, which are really woods?

6. Academically speaking, which streets really shouldn't be surrounded by College-wood?

Many of our street names are derived from their environment. Forest, Spring, Hill, Summit, Water, Railroad, and Factory are obvious. But why doesn't River Street continue south from Michigan Avenue to actually meet the Huron River? And we doubt there were any pearls on Pearl Street, either. Can you explain the reason for 7. Grove, 8. Park, 9. Photo and 10. Cross streets' names?

Answer's upsidown below

for an early family, nonetheless.

10. Cross Street marked a shallow place to advertising.

9. Photo Street commemorated a twentieth century business, Camp Photo whose auto fleet is featured on this year's Heritage Festival

today.

8. Park Street made the eastern boundary of our town square, Gilbert Park, where Cable TV and the Giant Flea Market are

settled. Woodruff's Grove (now under Ford Lake).

7. Grove Street connected the Chicago Road (now Michigan Avenue) to the early school at Cranbrook. That's Kingwood.

6. Cambridge, Oxford, Cornell are certainly in that league. Maybe even Roosevelt (the former EMU lab school or the Chicago university), but Kingwood is not the girls' school at Cranbrook.

5. Orchard, Grove and Forest could be any kind of tree, but what about Elm, Oak, Maple, Locust, Olive and Linden? Kingwood, is doubtful. At least it doesn't grow around here.

4. Hiawatha, of Longfellow's epic poem.

3. Washenaw, a local tribe, and

2. Woodward was a judge.

1. Ben Franklin was never president.

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YPSI FOOD COOP

Whole Natural Food in Bulk
OR SMALL QUANTITIES

M,T,Th,F 10-7 Wed. 10-9 312 N. River
483-1520 Sat. 9-7 Sun. 12-5

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Farmers'
Market**
in historic Depot Town

The Cricket Box

19 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
(313) 487-5595

Way East of Wobegon/ Home Delivery

Garrison Keillor ran out of material at 8:20 p.m., Saturday, June 14, 1987. Hundreds of loyal National Public Radio fans sat in a hot tent at Domino's Farms in Ann Arbor and bade a sentimental farewell to a fictitious Lake Wobegon, Minnesota. WEMU will continue to play re-runs, but most of the folks who waved their tearful good-byes to home town authenticity felt like someone had lied to them.

"He made it all up!" said a wire-rimmed guy in worn suspended jeans and a 'Raw Bits' T-shirt, "but the Old Town Restaurant is real!"

"And the Sidetrack Tap. That's real, too, except for the 'Tap'," said another aficionado of fulminating folklore.

"I think the Whippets are playing on Frog Island, now," said an old Norwegian farmer, "and isn't that the Tollefson boy who delivers *The Depot Town Rag* on the first Saturday of every month?"

Well, no, actually. But it's real -- and we'll never run out of material in a REAL town. So send your ten bucks (Associate Membership in the Depot Town Association, Inc.) to The Old Caboose (formerly Bob's Bank?) and we'll send you the *Rag* every month. Or you can send a hundred dollars and we'll call you up and read it to you over the phone -- just like on the radio.

To paraphrase our friends down at *The Ypsilanti Press*, "Don't Be Home (town) Without It!"

---and that's the news from Depot Town, where the women are articulate, and the men are creative and all the children have their shots -- or something like that.

Dear Rag Folks:

Dogs are a vital part of our community. They live in our apartments and even our shops. Several businesses have pets as customer greeters. One doesn't see that at the malls!

But along with the dogs comes the pooch's 'deposits.' This summer has seen a large increase of these 'nuggets' on our sidewalks, in the grassy patches behind our shops and throughout our parks.

This is becoming a major problem. The aroma is ever-present and customers don't enjoy the remnants on their feet. The solution is simple. It doesn't require applying for federal grant, going before a board with detailed plans, or begging the City for help. It only requires the owner to purchase a pooper scooper and use it.

So please, every shop keeper, tenant, and neighborhood dog owner: Let's take care of this problem now.

Thanks.

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Nineteenth Century

Boomers Featured - Railroads are the theme for the August Rag, showing the neighborhood's intimate ties with all that iron and action which bisects the district diagonally and creates such a visual and auditory event every hour or so in Depot Town. Some towns seem to resent the presence of their waterways or railroads, but Ypsilanti continuously celebrates their existence.

Our editors found this issue's Victorian railroad drawings in Edwin P. Alexander's "Down at the Depot / American Railroad Stations from 1834 to 1920," (Bramhall House, NY @ MCMLXX,) which was left at the Old Caboose by Engine Club board member, Bob Kruse. No, Ypsilanti's gorgeous MCRR depot didn't make it into the book, but the workers in these old drawings must look just like the Ypsilanti railroaders of the nineteenth century.



THE DEPOT TOWN RAG:

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

The Depot Town Association, Inc.,
Gary McKeever, President
The Caboose, 400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

August 1987

for the good of the block:

Foundation

8:00 p.m., Thursday, 6th
The Old Caboose

Association

7:30 p.m. Thursday, 20th
The Old Caboose

Artists & Artisans

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, 12th & 26th
The Old Caboose

Heritage Festival

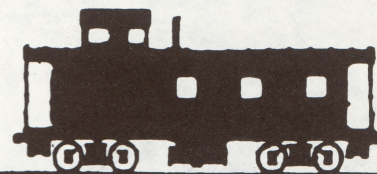
21, 22, 23

Antique Engine Club

7:30 p.m. Thursday, 27th
Domino's Barn

Depot Town Antique Dealers Assoc.

6:04 p.m. every Tuesday
Old Town Restaurant



D.T.A. 16 July 1987

June minutes were o.k.

Treasurer's Report: Total: \$19,849.78

Kelly Davis, representing Serenity House, is moving into the upstairs of Hansen's Standard Printing. (see accompanying article)

Rag Report: August issue will rise from 1500 to 2500 due to Heritage Festival.

Foundation will meet Thursday, August 6, at 8:00 p.m. after two months of meeting with DTA.

Caboose Rehab: windows, security, sill replacement, and other physical problems need the skills of a good carpenter. John Waite is available to work in his free time. New locks and alarm system will be checked. Add another \$100 to Caboose fund. Volunteers will soon be sought to help paint in and out.

Artrain's Old Caboose is available for either a Depot restaurant sign or a Farmer's Market office. DTA will investigate possibilities.

Boomer Days expenses were \$919.66, income was \$233.86. DTA had budgeted \$750.

Sales Tax for gross sales at Frog Island passed to treasurer.

Nominating Committee to report at August meeting for four offices selected at September's quarterly meeting: Meadows, Monaghan, Monaghan, Gary McKeever.

Lighting Sign: Meadows and Gerry Tyler laid underground conduit from Caboose to Follet House of eventual lighting. Pay \$137.10 for labor and supplies. Detroit Edison and Meadows will install lights for Festival.

Jazz needs \$2000 up front money for future promotions.

Engine Club members now own five railroad section cars with gas engines. Fifty more are available.

Boomer Days rehash will take place in the caboose at 7:30 Wednesday July 22.

The Golden Goose Award to whomever dumped 20 gallons of diesel fuel in the parking lot construction site.

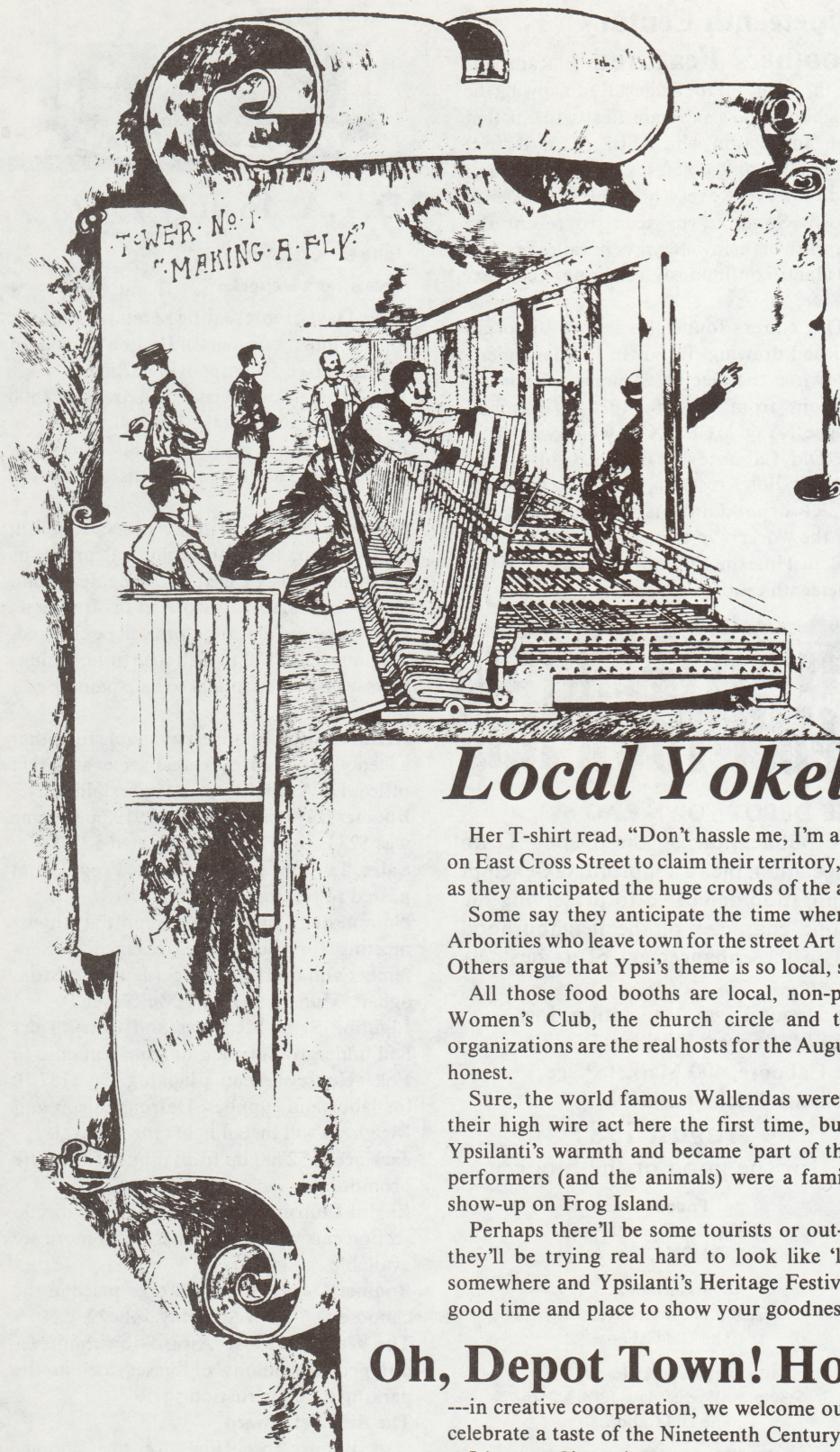
The Best Yet Award

—to Bonni Rosen-Fine for her Boomer Days leadership.

—to Jan Gower for soliciting Boomer Days awards from Merchants

—and to the Depot Town merchants for their enthusiastic support for this year's Boomer Days event. Most businesses donated at least \$50 in goods and services).

Hansen's Standard Printing • 35 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, MI 48198



- Depot Town Association, Incorporated
- The Historic Depot Town Foundation
- Depot Town Merchant's Committee
- Depot Town Antique Engine Club
- Depot Town Artists & Artisans
- Depot Town Antique Dealers Association

Letter to The Editor:

This year I am looking forward to Heritage Festival for a lot of reasons. For one, we will get to see neighbors and visiting friends from distant places who come to pay tribute to Ypsilanti, not only for her past splendor but her new on-going changes.

Last year, the parade came through Depot Town. I saw uptown, downtown and Depot Town people all in a mix. The same thing was written on all of our faces -- pride in presenting a wonderful event to the community. After all, we all have the same goal, to take our City in a positive direction for the up-coming youth to carry on and enjoy. There are never enough awards for all the unseen people who make all this happen.

Maybe the catch phrase should be: "Ask not what Ypsilanti can do for you, but ask what you can do to make it better." There is so much talent and energy in this town. We should all get behind it.

I would like to personally thank all the people who shop here and keep us going and the ones that just come down for refreshment and say "Hello." We'll do it again this year and we'll try to do you proud.

Sincerely, Linda J. Williams-Hakala
Owner, Vintage Passion Shop

Local Yokels

Her T-shirt read, "Don't hassle me, I'm a local," and it caused everyone who confronted her on East Cross Street to claim their territory, too. The wry humor was not wasted on other locals as they anticipated the huge crowds of the annual Heritage Festival at the end of the summer.

Some say they anticipate the time when Ypsilantians may become as provincial as Ann Arborities who leave town for the street Art Fair because, "to tourists just take over everything." Others argue that Ypsi's theme is so local, so historic, so personal, that'll never happen here.

All those food booths are local, non-profit Ypsilanti fund-raisers: the Boy Scouts, the Women's Club, the church circle and the Rotary Club. Over one hundred clubs and organizations are the real hosts for the August celebration in Ypsilanti and that helps to keep us honest.

Sure, the world famous Wallendas were a slick out-of-town attraction when they brought their high wire act here the first time, but as they returned each year, they succumbed to Ypsilanti's warmth and became 'part of the family.' Wayne Franzen noted, too, that all his performers (and the animals) were a family, and felt right at home in their circus' annual show-up on Frog Island.

Perhaps there'll be some tourists or out-of-towners at this year's Festival, but you can bet they'll be trying real hard to look like 'locals', too. After all, everybody has to be from somewhere and Ypsilanti's Heritage Festival is a good place to parade your local spirit. It's a good time and place to show your goodness. My goodness/local pride!

Oh, Depot Town! How You've Grown

--in creative cooperation, we welcome our Festival guests to return throughout the year to celebrate a taste of the Nineteenth Century.

It's true. City neighborhoods can still be charming, safe and friendly. Depot Town's best known product is just that kind of ambience. Among the well-maintained Victorian buildings you'll find second- and third-generation businesses thriving alongside creative, new enterprises. Those people sitting in lawn chairs on the sidewalks actually live upstairs in those old high ceilinged buildings and two-thirds of them are the buildings' owners. Most of those old gray heads at the tables in the restaurants are the same kids who shopped here fifty years ago. Now it's their grand-kids who are sitting in the ice cream parlor.

But the people come and go. Jack Miller's old Hudsons are still in great shape, and these old buildings will be here for a long time to come. Communities like Depot Town survive only because of the sensitivity of the people who are using them right now. We're only passing through. Take care. They won't be building any more new cities.

Serenity House Finds a Home In Depot Town

Serenity House of Ypsilanti, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt public foundation which strives to promote healthy life styles by providing an atmosphere supportive to the recovery from alcoholism and drug abuse. In August Serenity House will move its operations into the Standard Printing building second floor. Remodeling of this area is in process and when complete it will offer a 1200 square foot public meeting area and a 1000 square foot social club area for members of the Serenity House organization. The goals of Serenity House are to:

- 1) Increase public awareness of the diseases of alcoholism and chemical dependency.
- 2) Provide educational opportunities for students in the local schools through prevention education outreach.
- 3) Provide community resources for literature that relates to prevention education.
- 4) Provide an atmosphere in which to conduct meetings of the various recovering groups including, but not limited to, Alcoholics Anonymous, Alanon, Alateen, Narcotics Anonymous and other 12 Step Programs.
- 5) Provide a clean and sober atmosphere for recovering individuals to gather and have fellowship.

Any group or organization that endorses those goals will be welcome to use the meeting facility.

We are a non-profit group and welcome contributions. If you or your organization support our goals and want to know more about us please address inquiries or contributions to:

Serenity House of Ypsilanti, Inc.
15 E. Cross St.
P.O. Box A-28
Ypsilanti, MI 48198





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DEPOT TOWN

RAGTIME



Heritage is more than a weekend
- - - Down in Depot Town



Boomer Days chair, Bonni Rosen-fine thanks all those who helped to make July's event such a great success!

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Ted's Auto Electric
307 North River 483-1238

B & D Retail
Plumbing & Heating
310 North River 487-1510

Old Town Restaurant
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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Paponetti's Pasta
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**Aubree's Saloon
& Second Floor**
39 East Cross

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Good Times
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ICE CREAM
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